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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A data player for reading contents encrypted by a decoding key from a digital medium, and playing the encrypted contents by using the decoding key which is stored in a key storage unit, said data player comprising:

key obtaining means for performing mutual authentication with the key storage unit to obtain the decoding key stored in the key storage unit;

key holding means for holding the decoding key;

playback state obtaining means for monitoring the playback state of the digital medium; and

contents decoding means for decoding the encrypted contents by using the decoding key;

wherein the decoding key is obtained by the key obtaining means and stored in the key holding means,

wherein the encrypted contents read from the digital medium is decoded with the decoding key by the contents decoding means to play the contents,

wherein the playback state obtaining means obtains the playback state of the digital medium, and

wherein the decoding key stored in the key holding means is discarded when it is confirmed that the playback state of the digital medium has changed.

2. (Original) The data player of Claim 1, wherein the decoding key stored in the key holding means is discarded when it is confirmed that the playback state of the digital medium has become "STOP STATE".

3. (Original) The data player of Claim 1, wherein said digital medium is a DVD.

4. (Original) The data player of Claim 2, wherein said digital medium is a DVD.

5-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) A data player for reading contents encrypted by a decoding key from a digital medium, and playing the encrypted contents by using the decoding key which is stored in a key storage unit, said data player comprising:

key obtaining means for performing mutual authentication with the key storage unit to obtain the decoding key stored in the key storage unit;

key holding means for holding the decoding key;

playback state obtaining means for monitoring the playback state of the digital medium; and

contents decoding means for decoding the encrypted contents by using the decoding key;

wherein the decoding key is obtained by the key obtaining means and stored in the key holding means,

wherein the encrypted contents read from the digital medium is decoded with the decoding key by the contents decoding means to play the contents,

wherein the playback state obtaining means obtains the playback state of the digital medium, and

wherein, if it is determined that the playback state of the digital recording medium has changed, then the decoding key stored in the key holding means is discarded.

38. (New) The data player of Claim 37, wherein the decoding key stored in the key holding means is discarded when it is determined that the playback state of the digital medium has become "STOP STATE".

39. (New) The data player of Claim 37, wherein said digital medium is a DVD.

40. (New) The data player of Claim 38, wherein said digital medium is a DVD.